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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

DOCKET CONTROL

COMMISSIONERS

MIKE GLEASON, Chairman WILLIAM A. MUNDELL JEFF HATCH-MILLER KRISTIN K. MAYES **GARY PIERCE**

Arizona Cultar in Commission LOCKETED

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In the matter of:

SCOTT HUTCHINSON and JANE DOE HUTCHINSON, husband and wife, individually and doing business as MARINE 3)

DOCKET NO. S-20575A-08-0046

SECURITIES DIVISION'S POST HEARING **MEMORANDUM**

Respondents.

The Securities Division ("Division") of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") submits its post-hearing brief as follows:

I. PRELIMINARY ISSUES

Procedural History A.

On January 25, 2008, the Division filed a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing Regarding Proposed Order to Cease and Desist, for Restitution, for Administrative Penalties, and for Other Affirmative Action ("Notice"). The Notice alleged that Respondent Scott Hutchinson ("Hutchinson"), individually and doing business as Marine 3, engaged in acts, practices and transactions that constituted violations of the Securities Act of Arizona, A.R.S. §§ 44-1841, 44-1842, and 44-1991.

The Division served Hutchinson on February 28, 2008. On March 28, 2008, Hutchinson filed an Answer and Request for Hearing ("Answer").

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An administrative hearing was held on September 9, 2008. Hutchinson did not appear for the hearing, but was represented by counsel, Michael Salcido, who stipulated to the admission of all of the Division's exhibits. (Transcript p. 9:15-22). Hutchinson did not mark or offer admission of any Respondent exhibits. (Transcript p. 3:1-19).

B. Jurisdiction

Pursuant to A.A.C. R14-4-303(D)(1), Hutchinson was personally served with the Notice. (Affidavit of Service filed on 2/28/08). Hutchinson, through his Answer, admits that, at all times material to the facts set forth in the Notice, he was a resident of Arizona. (Answer \P 2).

The Commission has jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the Securities Act of Arizona (the "Act"), A.R.S. § 44-1801 *et. seq.* (See Article XV of the Arizona Constitution and §44-1971 of the Act). The Act prohibits the sale or offer for sale of unregistered securities within or from Arizona, A.R.S. § 44-1841; transactions involving the sale, purchase or offer to sell or buy any securities by unregistered dealers or salesmen within or from Arizona, A.R.S. § 44-1842; and the use of fraud in the offer to sell or buy securities, or in the sale or purchase of securities within or from Arizona, A.R.S. § 44-1991.

In his Answer, Hutchinson admits that he sold stock in Marine 3 within or from Arizona, that the stock he sold was not registered pursuant to Articles 6 or 7 of the Securities Act, and that he was not registered as a dealer or salesman when he sold the stock within or from Arizona. (Answer ¶'s 2, 18, 19, 21). Certificates of Non-Registration further establish that the stock sold was not registered and that Hutchinson and Marine 3 were not registered as dealers or salesmen. (Hearing Exhibit S-3).

C. <u>Facts</u>

- 1. At all times material hereto, Hutchinson was a resident of Arizona. (Answer ¶2).
- 2. At all times material, Hutchinson was not registered as a securities salesperson in Arizona. (Answer ¶2; Hearing Exhibit S-3).

- 3. On July 25, 2005, Hutchinson offered and sold an unregistered security within or from Arizona, in the form of stock in a Nevada company represented as Marine 3, to at least one unsophisticated Arizona investor ("Investor") in the amount of \$35,000. (Hearing Exhibits S-2, S-3, S-4; Transcript p. 17:2-10, p. 52:9-12, p. 54:19-25; Answer ¶'s 18, 19).
- 4. Marine 3 was incorporated in the State of Nevada on May 5, 2004. (Hearing Exhibit S-4).
- 5. According to the corporate filings made on behalf of Marine 3 with the Nevada Secretary of State, Hutchinson does not maintain any position within Marine 3 or have any authority to act on behalf of Marine 3. (Hearing Exhibit S-4).
- 6. Hutchinson failed to inform the Investor that Marine 3's bylaws were never duly adopted by the stockholders or Board of Directors of Marine 3, were not executed, do not include the name of Marine 3, and fail to identify Hutchinson as having any authority to act on Marine 3's behalf. (Hearing Exhibit S-8 at ACC00069; Transcript p. 75:2-13).
- 7. According to documents received by the Division from Hutchinson, through a special meeting of the directors of Marine 3 held on May 13, 2004, he became director and president of Marine 3. (Hearing Exhibit S-7 at ACC 000057-59).
- 8. Hutchinson represented to the Investor, prior to her investment, that he was the president of Marine 3. (Hearing Exhibit S-1; Transcript p. 15:20 to p. 16:1).
- 9. Marine 3's corporate status was revoked by the State of Nevada on June 1, 2006. (Hearing Exhibit S-5).
- 10. Hutchinson never informed the Investor that Marine 3's corporate status had been revoked by the State of Nevada effective June 1, 2006. (Transcript p. 31:13-15).
- 11. Hutchinson informed the Investor, prior to her investment, that her investment funds would be used for Marine 3's start up costs to sell boats. (Transcript p. 19: 22-24, p. 56:2-4, 13-16).

1	12. Hutchinson represented to the Investor that there was no risk in the investment, that
2	the value of the stock could double or triple after Marine 3 went public and that the Investor was
3	guaranteed to receive, at a minimum, a return of her initial investment amount (\$35,000) in early
4	2006. (Transcript p. 14:2-13, p. 31:16-18, p. 52:23 to p. 53:2).
5	13. Hutchinson informed the Investor, that Marine 3 would be merging with another
6	company, Dream Marketing, with both companies then going public. (Transcript p. 19:25 to p.
7	20:2, p. 20:23-25, p. 21:4-11).
8	14. Hutchinson utilized a laptop and a binder of material in presenting the investment
9	opportunity in Marine 3. (Transcript p. 12:3-11).
10	15. Hutchinson did not provide any financial information to the investor with regard to
11	Marine 3. (Transcript p. 12:25 to p. 13:2).
12	16. On July 25, 2005, Hutchinson issued stock certificate #5 for 600 shares in Marine 3
13	to the Investor in exchange for \$35,000. (Answer ¶9; Hearing Exhibit S-1; Transcript p. 15:9
14	to p. 17:15).
15	17. Hutchinson instructed the Investor to make her investment by writing seven checks
16	payable to Hutchinson in the amount of \$5,000 each. (Transcript p. 18:24 to p. 19:9; Hearing
۱7	Exhibit S-2).
18	18. Hutchinson proceeded to the Investor's bank on July 29th, August 1st, August 3rd,
19	and August 5th to cash the Investor's seven checks totaling \$35,000. (Hearing Exhibit S-2;
20	Transcript p. 82:19 to p. 84:17).
21	19. To date, Investor has not received any return on her investment and has not received
22	back her principal investment amount. (p. 56:17 to p. 57:6).
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II. SECURITIES & UNREGISTERED ACTIVITIES

A. Offer and sale of an unregistered security by an unregistered securities salesperson

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1801(26), stock is clearly included in the definition of a security. As indicated above, Hutchinson does not dispute that he sold a security in the form of stock to the Investor. He also does not dispute that he was not a registered security salesperson in Arizona. In his answer, Hutchinson represents that the stock he sold was exempt from registration, apparently pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1844(4), because it was owned by him. (Answer ¶'s 6, 18, 21, 27).

Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 44-2033 requires that Hutchinson carry the burden of proving the existence of any claimed exemption. To be entitled to the exemption set forth in A.R.S. § 44-1844(4), Hutchinson was required to establish that he was the bona fide owner of the security sold to the Investor. Hutchinson failed to present any evidence that he owned any stock, including the stock sold to the Investor. (Transcript p. 77:3-7). In fact, at the hearing, Hutchinson did not even attempt to carry the burden of establishing that he was entitled to any exemption. (Transcript p. 8:21 to p. 9:11). Finally, A.R.S. § 44-1844(4) excludes an issuer or underwriter and the evidence presented is that Hutchinson is the issuer of the stock and, as a result, not entitled to the exemption contained within A.R.S. § 44-1844(4).

B. Fraud in the offer or sale of securities

Fraud, including untrue statements of material fact and omissions, in the offer or sale of securities violates A.R.S. § 44-1991. As it relates to fraud, the standard of materiality of omitted facts is whether a reasonable investor would have wanted to know. *Rose v. Dobras*, 128 Ariz. 209, 214, 624 P.2d 887, 892 (1981). Further, unlike common law fraud, reliance upon a misrepresentation is not an element in fraud involving the purchase or sale of securities. *Id*.

The evidence presented in this matter sets forth clearly the following fraud committed by Hutchinson:

- 1. Hutchinson represented to the Investor that her investment funds would be used for Marine 3's start up costs to sell boats. (Transcript p. 19:22-24, p. 56:2-4, 13-16). The Securities Division's investigation has found no evidence that the Investor's funds were used for Marine 3's start up costs or that Marine 3 ever began selling boats. The evidence is that Hutchinson requested that the Investor make her checks payable to Hutchinson and that he cashed the checks. (Transcript p. 18:24 to p. 19:9, p. 82:19 to p. 84:17; Hearing Exhibit S-2). Hutchinson failed to respond to the Division's subpoenas with documentation setting forth how the Investor's funds were spent, despite the unambiguous requests made by the Division for that information. (Hearing Exhibit S-6, S-7, S-8).
- 2. Hutchinson misrepresented to the investor that there was no risk in the investment and omitted to present the substantial risks that exist with any investment involving stock, including the potential for loss of the entire investment. (Transcript p. 14:2-6). Hutchinson should also have informed the Investor of the risks associated with attempting to take a company public since the profits promised to the Investor by Hutchinson along with the date of repayment of her principal investment, were contingent upon Marine 3 becoming a publicly held company. (Transcript p. 14:7-16).
- 3. Hutchinson misrepresented to the Investor that she was guaranteed to receive, at a minimum, a return of her initial investment amount (\$35,000) by early 2006. (Transcript p. 14:7-13, 31:16-18, p. 52:23 to p. 53:2). To date, Investor has not received a refund of her principal investment amount and Hutchinson represents that he does not have the Investor's funds to return to her. (Transcript p. 56:17 to p. 57:6, p. 9:1-2). To be in a position to return Investor's funds to her by early 2006 would have required Marine 3 to complete the process of becoming a public company within about 6 months. (Transcript p. 31:16-18, p. 52:23 to p. 53:2).
- 4. Hutchinson failed to disclose to the Investor the basis for his instruction to her to write seven checks payable to Hutchinson, each in the amount of \$5,000. Hutchinson failed to inform the Investor that he would cash the investment checks on separate dates at the Investor's

bank, rather than deposit them in a Marine 3 business account. As a result of Hutchinson simply cashing the Investor's checks, he created a situation whereby the cash he received could not be traced.

- 5. Hutchinson failed to disclose to the Investor that the only documents filed with the Nevada Secretary of State, on behalf of Marine 3, do not include any reference to Hutchinson, let alone as president of Marine 3 with authority to act on behalf of Marine 3 to issue stock. (Hearing Exhibit S-4, Transcript p. 73:18 to p. 75:2).
- 6. Hutchinson failed to inform the Investor that Marine 3's bylaws do not indicate that they were ever executed or duly adopted by the stockholders or Board of Directors of Marine 3, facts that a reasonable investor would have wanted to know prior to investing. (Hearing Exhibit S-8 at ACC000069; Transcript p. 75:2-13).

C. Conclusion

The evidence presented at the hearing establishes that Hutchinson, without being registered as a securities salesperson, sold at least one unregistered security, within or from Arizona, to at least one unsophisticated Arizona investor beginning from at least July 25, 2005. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2036(A), Hutchinson can be ordered to pay an administrative penalty of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation of the Act. The violations include Hutchinson's sale of an unregistered security, as an unregistered securities salesperson, and the six material frauds set forth above. Based upon the nature of Hutchinson's material misrepresentations and omissions, the maximum administrative penalty amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation is justified.

Based upon the evidence presented, the Division respectfully requests this tribunal to:

- A. Order Hutchinson to cease and desist from further violations of the Act pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032;
- B. Hutchinson's unwillingness to supply documents and/or appear before the Division to provide an explanation of his activities makes it virtually impossible for the Division to identify

stockholders issued stock certificates 1, 2, 3, and 4 and any other additional investors. As a result, 1 the Division requests that Hutchinson be ordered to pay restitution, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2 3 2032(1), to all investors as shown on the books and records of the Division in an amount not less than \$35,000 to allow for restitution to those investors, if any, who may come forward upon 4 learning of any order issued by the Commission in this matter; 5 C. Order Hutchinson, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2036(A), to pay an administrative 6 penalty of not less than \$40,000; 7 D. Order any other relief this tribunal deems appropriate or just. 8 Dated this 7/2 day of October, 2008. 9 10 11 William W. Black, Esq. 12 for the Securities Division 13 ORIGINAL AND THIRTEEN (13) COPIES of the foregoing filed this _____ day of October, 14 2008, with: 15 16 **Docket Control** Arizona Corporation Commission 17 1200 West Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007 18 COPY of the foregoing mailed and e-mailed 19 this 7th day of October, 2008 to: 20 Administrative Law Judge Belinda A. Martin 21 Arizona Corporation Commission/Hearing Division 400 West Congress, Ste. 221 22 Tucson, Arizona 85701-1347 23 Michael Salcido, Esq. BUCKLEY KING, LPA 24 2020 North Central Avenue, Suite 1120 Phoenix, Arizona 85004 25

Attorney for Respondent

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